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Motor Lodge Recovering After Sniper

The heavily damaged Down Town Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, scene of the bloody sniper attacks of Jan. 7 that left eight persons dead, may get back into operation within the next four months.

A spokesman for the owners said the restaurant and the parking garage are already operating full time.

The hotel said no renovation work has actually gotten underway in the upper floors where most of the damage was done pending completion of engineering studies and insurance investigations.

Fires were set on six of the hotel's 18 floors and 44 rooms were damaged by the blazes on the eighth, 11th, 12th,v 15th, 17thand 18th floors.

In addition to damage caused by the flames, there was extensive interior damage from rifle fire, water, smoke and from the elements after hundreds of windows were shot away.

Sniper Mark Essex was shot to eath on the roof of the hotel overlooking Duncan Plaza and the Civic Center after a confrontation with officers that lasted some 30 hours.

Seven persons, three of them policemen, died from sniper fire.